

# TALK of the TOWN

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL  
*'Helping make Dunstable a Better Place'*

Issue 60 June 2013



# Summer of music

**Hazel O'Connor**  
Exclusive Interview  
Priory House News  
Medieval Dunstable  
Dunstable In Bloom  
and more!



[www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk)



DUNSTABLE  
TOWN COUNCIL

# Meet the Councillors

## CENTRAL WARD



**Cllr V Fildes**  
39 Cartmel Drive  
Dunstable LU6 3PT  
01582 663923



**Cllr P E Russell**  
44 Mayfield Road  
Dunstable LU5 4AP  
07717 192398



**Cllr P Staples**  
Priory Lodge  
Friars Walk  
Dunstable LU6 3JA  
01582 666703

## MANSHEAD WARD



**Cllr P Freeman**  
19 The Parklands  
Dunstable LU6 4GU



**Cllr R Pepworth**  
28 Great Northern Rd  
Dunstable LU5 4BP  
01582 538414



**Cllr N Reynolds**  
57 Half Moon Lane  
Dunstable LU5 4AB  
07963 377087

## ICKNIELD WARD



**Cllr T C Colbourne**  
70 Crabtree Way  
Dunstable LU6 1UR  
01582 666910



**Cllr J Kane**  
2 Ripley Road  
Luton LU4 0AT  
01582 510048



**Cllr G Martin**  
70 Crabtree Way  
Dunstable LU6 1UR  
01582 666910



**Cllr T A W Stock**  
8 Holliwick Road  
Dunstable LU5 4RA  
01582 665377



**Cllr N Warren**  
41 Lowry Drive  
Houghton Regis  
LU5 5SJ  
01582 864396

## NORTHFIELDS WARD



**Cllr J Anklesaria**  
Shemavaz  
12 Sunbower Avenue  
Dunstable LU6 1UQ  
01582 662974



**Cllr J A Chatterley**  
36 Roslyn Way  
Houghton Regis  
LU5 6JY  
01582 867536



**Cllr J Freeman**  
77 Hillcroft  
Dunstable  
LU6 1TT  
01582 756060



**Cllr J A Harnett**  
8 Ashcroft  
Dunstable  
LU6 1DX  
07842 791109



**Cllr J Murray**  
8 Westgate Court  
204-206 West Street  
Dunstable LU6 1NZ  
01582 690500

## WATLING WARD



**Cllr P N Hollick**  
1 Carlisle Close  
Dunstable LU6 3PH  
01582 665133



**Cllr L Jones**  
82 Jeansway  
Dunstable LU5 4PP  
01582 472044



**Cllr C E Meakins-Jell**  
11 Bernard Close  
Dunstable LU5 4HL  
01582 526104

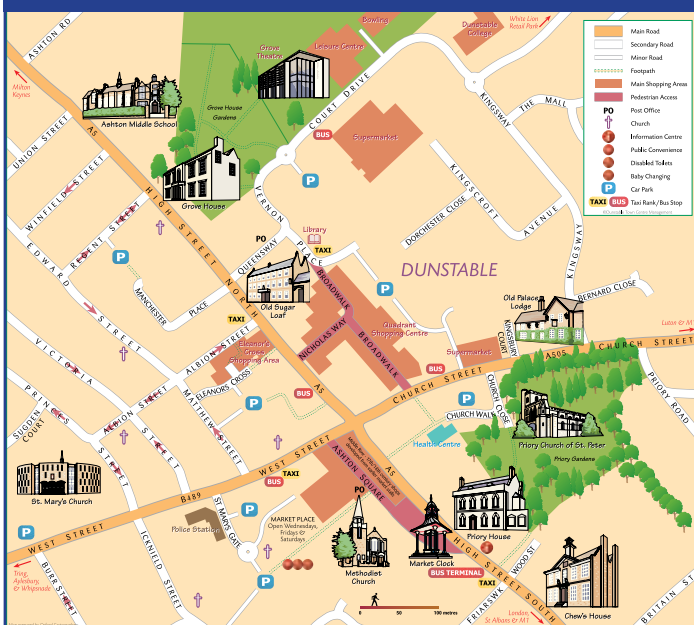


**Cllr M J P Mullany**  
49 West Hill  
Dunstable LU6 3PN  
01582 667797

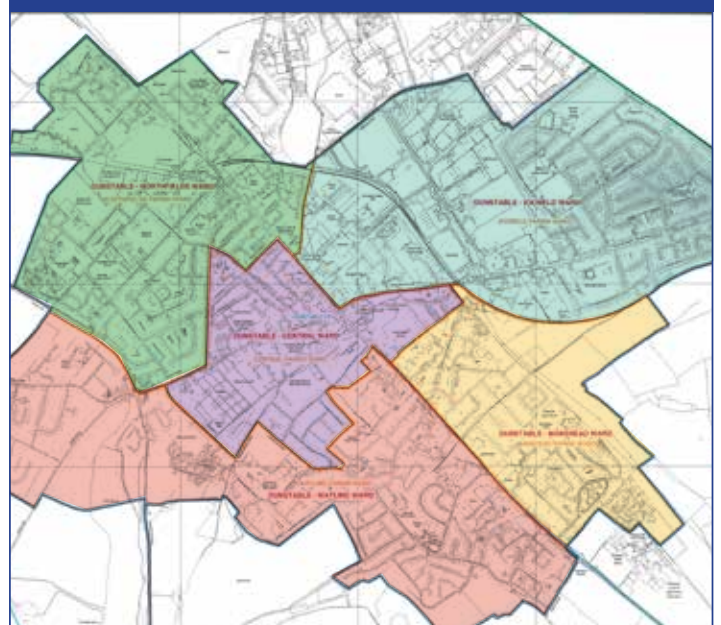


**Cllr B Whayman**  
Birch House  
32a Bull Pond Lane  
Dunstable LU6 3BJ  
07905 100932

## DUNSTABLE TOWN CENTRE



## DUNSTABLE WARDS MAP





# The Mayor's Message

Councillor  
J A Chatterley

I am both honoured and proud to serve as Town Mayor for the ensuing year. I first moved to Dunstable in 1968, married my wife Ann in 1973, and we have three adult children, Richard, Steven and Philip, all having been educated in Dunstable. I am a retired accountant and publican, my last job being with Dunstable College. My thanks to the immediate past Mayor, Councillor Patricia Staples, for her help to me as Deputy Town Mayor. I promise to continue to positively support and promote the town as all past Mayors have done during their term of office.

The choice of charities is always difficult for every Mayor as there are so many deserving causes. This year I have chosen three. The first is Macmillan Cancer Support, who improve the lives of people affected by cancer; my second is the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation, who support local community groups and charities; the third is the Bedfordshire Youth Association, supporting young people at the Dunstable Young People's Centre and at the Pioneer Youth and Community Centre. I hope that you will be able to help me support these worthy causes.

This will be an exceptional year as we celebrate the 800th anniversary of the dedication of the Augustinian Priory in October. I hope that you are able to enjoy the many planned events linked to the mediaeval programme. I have been amazed at the enthusiasm and energies given by the various volunteer groups, historians, archaeologists, town guides, schools and churches, all working together, by researching the medieval story of the town from 1100–1540.

Apart from the mediaeval programme, the Town Council is also delivering a full events programme for the summer months. There are many great things happening with opportunities for all and I hope that you will be able to take advantage of some of the forthcoming events and activities.

The town owes so much to the many volunteers who work tirelessly in their particular area and turn out constantly to make things happen for others in the town, sometimes with very little recognition. Thank you to you all. I hope very much that during my year I will be able to meet and thank many of you personally for the work that you do.

Whilst we have a number of challenges to overcome, I can assure you that the members and officers at Dunstable Town Council continue to maximise efforts to help make Dunstable a better place.

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Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken in compiling this publication and the statements contained herein are believed to be correct, Dunstable Town Council cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies and do not endorse any particular products.



# Welcome

## to the summer edition of Talk of the Town

This is always an exciting time for the Council as we launch our 2013 events programme. This year's programme looks set to be just as impressive as last year and we are all hoping for a summer of fine weather so that as many residents as possible can fully enjoy the wide range of events and attractions organised by the Council.

I was very pleased to have received some positive feedback on the last Talk of the Town where we showcased all that Dunstable Town Council does for its residents for such a small council tax charge. Dunstable Town Council is one of the largest town councils in the country and we are all very proud of what the Council has achieved over recent years.

2013 is an important year for Dunstable as the town will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the dedication of the Augustinian Priory. The Council has been pleased to work with Promoting Dunstable on developing a range of mediaeval projects that will help celebrate this momentous occasion, most of which will be centred around Priory House, Church and Gardens. Dunstable has enjoyed a fascinating history and I know that the Council, working with partners such as Promoting Dunstable, Dunstable and District History Society and Friends of Priory House and Gardens, will be developing a number of initiatives that will make this history accessible to all residents and visitors.

This edition of Talk of the Town also showcases some of the work we have been doing with Central Bedfordshire Council, local businesses and community groups with the funds received from the Portas Town Team initiative. The Council will continue to invest in the town centre to make it look as attractive as possible and I urge all readers to visit the town market, which continues to prosper under the Council's management.

Finally, can I also urge all readers to visit the Tea Rooms at Priory House, if you haven't already? Priory House continues to go from strength to strength and the Tea Rooms has now been awarded an 'Excellence' rating by the Tea Guild.

I would like to end my introduction by congratulating Dunstable Town FC and AFC Dunstable Ladies on not only winning the league, but also remaining unbeaten for the whole season. It must have something to do with their very well maintained home pitch!

I hope you enjoy this edition of Talk of the Town and please feel free to comment on any of the Council's services using the comment form at the back of this edition or by visiting our website [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk) or following us on Twitter and Facebook.

Happy reading!

*David Ashlee*

Dunstable Town Clerk and Chief Executive

# NOTICEBOARD

News and updates from your Council, keeping you abreast of the latest local information...

## PARK FOR FREE!

## SHOP FOR FUN!!

The Dunstable Joint Committee has agreed to fund a further eight Saturdays in 2013 to allow free parking at selected car parks in the town, one of which we hope you have already taken advantage of on 18 May. The Free Parking will take place in selected town centre car parks on the following dates:

15 June 2013 (Dunstable Live), 20 July 2013 (Party in the Park), 31 August 2013 (Dunstable Rocks), 21 September 2013 (Town Fayre), 19 October 2013, 16 November 2013, 7 December 2013 and 14 December 2013 (Christmas Cracker).

The car parks included in the scheme are Ashton Square (Wilkinson), St Mary's Gate (West Street), Church Street and Matthew Street (Eleanor's Cross).

Please note that car parks not mentioned are NOT included in the scheme and charges will still apply.

## New Website

Dunstable Town Council is planning to create and develop a new website. We would really like to know your thoughts and opinions on our existing website to ensure we make the improvements needed. Please visit [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk) and email your thoughts to [lisa.vincent@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.vincent@dunstable.gov.uk) your thoughts or use the comments slip on the back.

## Do you want to protect your electoral registration details? Do you want to stop commercial companies having access to your details on the electoral register?

Important changes to your details on the electoral register. Visit [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk) for the full details.

## National Volunteer Week 1 to 7 June 2013

Dunstable Town Council would like to express a big **'THANK YOU'** to all our wonderful volunteers whose help and support ensure good quality services are provided to all sections of our community.

## Social Media Links

You can follow Dunstable Town Council on Twitter and Facebook using the details below:

-  Facebook/dunstablecouncil
-  Facebook/grovecornerdunstable
-  @dunstabletc
-  @dunstabletown
-  @prioryhouse
-  @dunstableevents
-  @creaseypark

## Party this summer with a Creasey Kickz Football Party

Creasey Park is the ideal venue for that special football party and here is why...

- When you book your football party at Creasey Park all this is included:
  - Creasey Kickz invitations to send to all your friends.
  - An hour of football fun on our artificial pitch.
  - Your own party coach who will tailor activities for the best experience.

After all that excitement...it's inside for your post-match party food. All players get to choose from our Creasey Park Hat-trick menu.

Why not send your friends home with a goodie bag to remember the day? (additional charge)

It's not just for the kids...parents can enjoy a hassle-free experience, (we'll do it all), so take time to enjoy our lounge area for a cappuccino or something stronger from our licensed bar.

For further information please visit our website page [www.dunstable.gov.uk/cpcfc](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk/cpcfc), email [cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk) or call 01582 891433. You can even follow us on Twitter at @CreaseyPark

## Contact Your Town Council

### Address

Grove House  
76 High Street North  
Dunstable  
Bedfordshire  
LU6 1NF

### Telephone

01582 513000

### Fax

01582 890606

### Email

[info@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:info@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Website

[www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk)

### Opening Hours

9.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Monday to Friday



Visit the Dunstable Town Council website using your smartphone. Simply download a 2D barcode reading app and hover your phone over the pattern to the left.

# DESTINATION DUNSTABLE

Keeping you abreast of town centre news, initiatives and developments

## Dunstable's Town Team Improving Ashton Square

As regular readers will have noted in our last edition, since December, Dunstable's Town Team has been working hard to bring improvements to the Ashton Square area of the town centre, with the ultimate aim of increasing trade and footfall for traders.



Consisting of community groups, shops and representatives from Central Bedfordshire Council and Central Bedfordshire College, and led by Dunstable Town Council, the partnership has been building on its early success, with further improvements including:

- A retail map to replace the old mural in the alleyway
- Installation of vinyls to tidy up empty shop units
- Successful Easter and St George's Day activities

You may have noticed that some of the empty units in High Street South have also benefited from new vinyls, for which funding was provided by the Dunstable Joint Committee.

The next phase of improvements are to include:

- A new sign for Ashton Square
- Refurbishing of street furniture
- Installation of hanging baskets
- A new map for the Ashton Square Car Park notice board
- Further community events, activities and performances

The Town Team wants to see The Square being used by the local community, creating a vibrant community feel.

Do you belong to a community group who would like to use The Square to stage a performance or activity? Are you a performer yourself and would like to use the space for FREE to showcase your talent? Perhaps you would like to hold an event that would bring lots of people to the area?

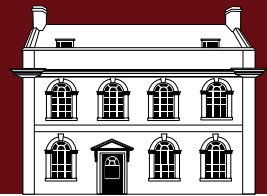
If so the Town Team would love to hear from you, please email [info@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:info@dunstable.gov.uk) or call 01582 513000.





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# Priory House Tea Rooms



Past Town Mayor Cllr Patricia Staples and Helen Walker-Sygrove with the 2013 Tea Guild certificate.

**“There are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea”**

*Henry James, writer 1843-1916*

The Tea Room at Priory House has again been awarded membership of the prestigious Tea Guild for 2013 and remains the only holder of membership to the Guild in Bedfordshire.

In addition to this the Tea Room has won an “Award of Excellence” by the United Kingdom Tea Council as part of their highly coveted Top Tea Place Awards 2013.

Now in its 28th year, the awards are considered the Michelin star of the tea world, with the best tea venues in Britain competing for recognition of outstanding quality and consistently high standards in tea service. Judging is based on visits by judges to take Afternoon Tea. All visits are anonymous to ensure the results are completely fair and accurate.

The judges awarded points for the variety, flavour and knowledge of the teas offered, together with the quality of food, service, décor, ambience, and presentation. With 125 points to be lost or gained on the judge’s scorecard, only those tea establishments achieving the very highest standards across a number of categories can make it to the top.

Commenting on Priory House Tea Rooms winning an Award of Excellence, Head of The Tea Guild Irene Gorman said: “Each year the standard of entrants for the awards continues to

scale new heights, making the judges’ task of choosing those who achieve an Award of Excellence extremely challenging, and this year’s competition was no exception. This Award of Excellence to Priory House Tea Rooms was presented in recognition of consistently high standards of tea making and customer service, evident in the care and attention to detail with which afternoon tea was prepared and served.”

Tea Consultant Malcolm Ferris-Lay said: “I would like to heartily congratulate the team for gaining the Award of Excellence from the Tea Council. To gain this award in your first year is very unusual and you should be enormously proud of your achievements. “

Helen Walker-Sygrove, the Priory House Manager, is absolutely delighted that this award has been achieved. “It is the result of a lot of hard work and commitment, not only by the staff, but also Malcolm Ferris-Lay, our tea advisor, who has given up his own time to encourage, train and support all the staff at Priory House and without whom we could not have achieved so much so quickly.”



# Young DUNSTABLE

News for the young in our community

## Youth Achievement Awards 2013

It was evident in the nominations for this year's Dunstable Town Council Youth Achievement Awards just how many young people give their time so willingly to improve the environment for others. An individual Community Involvement Award was presented to Joshua Fitzpatrick, aged 15, for his outstanding work with the National Trust on Dunstable Downs. As well as assisting with practical conservation work for the benefit of plants and wildlife, Joshua also ensures that Dunstable Downs is a clean and welcoming space for visitors to enjoy. Maintaining this theme, a group Community Involvement Award was presented to Katie Tatton, 17, Sam Harkness, 16 and Kenlie Youngman, 14, who are all members of the Wildlife Youth Rangers on Blows Down. This group of committed young people help to manage the nature reserve, which is enjoyed by many local people and visitors from further afield.

## Summer Activities

Dunstable Town Council's Summer Activities programme will run from week beginning 29 July to week ending 23 August.


This year is measuring up to be even bigger and better than last year with plenty of activities for children and young people aged 5 to 18 to enjoy.

Families will not be disappointed either with another popular inflatable day, arts and crafts and much more. Be sure to visit the website for regular updates and remember to book early to avoid disappointment. Visit [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk)

## Party in the Park 'The Mix'

Young people are in for even more of a treat at this year's Party in the Park on Saturday 20 July with an entertainment marquee exclusively for 10- to 18-year-olds. 'The Mix' marquee will provide a range of entertainment such as musicians, singers, DJs, comics and dancers in performances running from 12 noon to 8.00 pm.

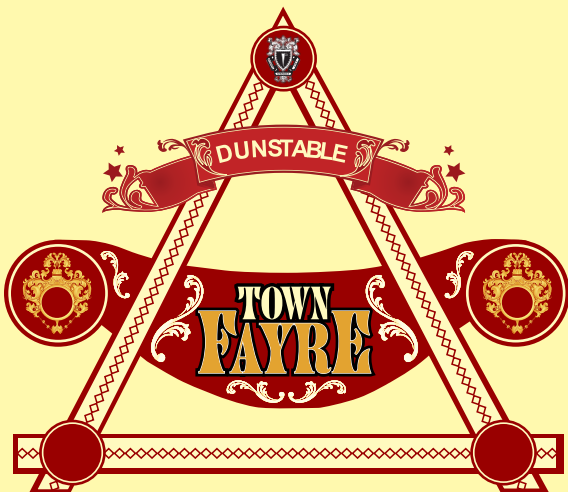
If you have a talent you want to showcase, this could be your opportunity. For an audition please contact [sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk)

 [Facebook/grovecornerdunstable](https://www.facebook.com/grovecornerdunstable)

# Dunstable Town Fayre



PRIORY HOUSE



**Saturday 21 September**  
**10.00 am to 4.00 pm**

**In Priory Gardens**

Animal Area ▪ Entertainment ▪ Punch & Judy  
Fun Dog Show ▪ Stalls ▪ Craft Area  
and much more...



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Priory House, 33 High Street South, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 3RZ  
Tel: 01582 891420 Email: [prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk)  
visit [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk)



# Dunstable's Summer of Music

Get set for a great summer with Dunstable Town Council. There are events for everyone to enjoy and the centre-piece will be Dunstable's Summer of Music – a series of musical extravaganzas. So let's hope for sunshine in abundance and for a wonderful time to be had by all.

## DUNSTABLE Live!

**Saturday 15 June**  
**Grove House Gardens**

**3.00 pm to 8.00 pm**

5 hours of tribute bands

3.00 pm

Tribute to Bob Marley

4.00 pm

Rat in the Kitchen: a fantastic tribute band to UB40

5.00 pm

Complete Madness

6.00 pm

An outstanding 9-piece SKA band '2 Rude'



FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



Dunstable Town Council is please to announce their annual series of Band Concerts for 2013. New for this year some of the band concerts are on Saturdays and each Saturday concert will have it's own theme. Make sure you come down and enjoy these lovely free concerts in the beautiful setting of Grove House Gardens.

**Grove House Gardens (3.00 pm to 4.30 pm)**

**Sunday 30 June**

Dunstable Town Band - *Traditional Band Concert*

**Sunday 7 July**

Salvation Army - *Traditional Band Concert*

**Sunday 14 July**

South Beds Concert Band - *Traditional Band Concert*

**Sunday 28 July**

Welwyn Garden City - *Traditional Band Concert*

**Saturday 3 August**

MK brass band - *Songs from the West End*

**Saturday 10 August**

Denham Brass Band - *Songs from TV/film*

**Saturday 17 August**

St Albans City Band - *Big Band theme*

**Saturday 24 August**

Watford Town Band - *Last Night of the Proms*



**Saturday 20 July**

**Grove House Gardens**

**12 noon to 8.00 pm**

Party in the Park is back. An 8-hour, family fun event, including live music, children's rides and attractions, fun fair and much more! Fantastic event for all the family and it's completely FREE! Get dancing to a PINK and JESSIE J tribute and then get ready to go back in time to the 'one and only' CHESNEY HAWKES as he takes to the stage to end this fantastic event!

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



**Saturday 31 August**

**Grove House Gardens**

**12 noon to 10.00 pm**

Are you ready for this year's Dunstable Rocks! Get ready for 10 hours of non-stop live music starting with local bands showcasing their talent. Then prepare for an evening to remember with the band Donut, a truly unbelievable covers band who will have you dancing and singing away! Then at 7.15 pm be blown away by Jean Genie, an awesome tribute to the legend David Bowie, this is all getting you ready for the headline act 80s icon HAZEL O'CONNOR, famous for her unique look and sound, singing the fantastic hits '8th Day' and 'Will You'.

FREE PARKING AVAILABLE



**For more information visit [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk)**



# Hazel O'Connor

This year's headline act for Dunstable Rocks is 80s superstar Hazel O'Connor. Speaking exclusively to Talk of the Town prior to her big gig this August, Hazel talks about her career, her thoughts on coming to Dunstable and being caught with her pants down!



## What was the last album/single you bought?

The last album I bought was Leonard Cohen who sung Hallelujah, but the last single (who buys singles anymore?) was a charity song I recorded for my mum's hospice, 'Re-Royce'. It was a Christmas song and featured other 80s stars like Carole Decker, Toyah, Pauline Black and Kid Creole. I kept going into HMV to buy the single to help raise more funds for the hospice and get it up the charts to help the cause. It was very special to me to record a single like this with so many great artists.

## What should people expect from watching you perform at Dunstable Rocks?

Energy, passion and some poignant moments, something which has become my signature at gigs. The gig will be accessible for all ages, with some Breaking Glass and some new stuff which seems to always go down well. Above all it will be a lot of fun and I am so excited to come and play. I just did a gig in Milton Keynes and that went down a storm!

## Have you ever played Dunstable before?

I can't remember playing in Dunstable before, but, to be honest, trying to remember every gig so far back is impossible. So, who knows? I might have done!

## You have just being touring 'Breaking Glass Tour', how did it go?

I have just finished the tour with my girls, as a trio. It was fantastic, nearly everywhere was sold out and I was so happy just hopping in my car and wandering around England playing the gigs. I love to go off with the girls shopping before and catch up with them! The tour was fantastic and I couldn't have wished it to have gone any better.

## Can you tell us a bit more about the band you will be bringing with you at Dunstable Rocks?

There will be a total of six of us on stage, three girls, including myself, and three boys. Claire Hirst used to be the sax player in The Belle Stars and performed on tracks with David Bowie; Sarah Fisher was the pianist for the Eurythmics. The three boys play guitar, bass and drums. Look out for the drummer, he looks like Prince Harry! With this line-up it is going to be kicking!

## What music do you listen to now?

At the moment I am really into Latin. The story behind this is that two years ago when my mum died I got really depressed and about a year later I thought I needed to do something and start living again. So I created a list of what I wanted to do and one of those things was ballroom dancing (unfortunately Strictly have never asked me to

take part, I would love that!), so I started lessons in my local village after seeing an advert and I got so into the Latin dances, especially salsa and tango. The effect of this meant I got really into Latin music and I haven't stopped listening to it since. The 'new' music for me is audio books. I don't listen to music in the car anymore, as it can sometimes distract me from my gig or my own song writing, so when I'm travelling five to six hours touring, I listen to audio books which have really caught my imagination. I would really like my own autobiography to become an audio book as well.

## What part of performing live do you enjoy the most?

All of it! Seriously though I really do. I must admit I don't enjoy the hours of driving, but nothing beats performing live. Over the years, without corporate support, I have learnt a lot myself from lighting to sounds and I now know what makes a good show. I definitely know now what I do and don't like on stage. I also like the feeling of being scared, especially when I am performing new material from the album and wondering if they will like it or not. Like many artists, just before I go on stage I get into a 'zone' and then I can breathe easy and enjoy the show.

## Where is the best venue and crowd you have played to?

I must admit the one that most recently sticks in my mind is the one I played in Milton Keynes. It was perfection from the venue, lighting, and the audience. From an artistic point of view it took my breath away and I loved it! Going back a bit another gig that I remember (but I wasn't actually performing at) was Live Aid in the 80s. I got invited to the celebrity area to watch the concert and at the end everyone was invited to sing 'Feed the World'. I was stood next to George Michael and Alison Moyet singing at Wembley! It was a moment I will never forget.

## Who has supported you the most in your career?

Well, behind the scenes definitely the McGann brothers. They supported me a lot and Joe McGann helped me with a film that I was getting produced. The other big artist was David Bowie. He was very helpful and gave me some great advice. The producer for Breaking Glass was the same producer for Bowie and he arranged for me to meet him as he knew I was a massive fan. Bowie really was like a hero to me! When I got to the studio he was recording and I was so excited after exchanging pleasantries he turned around and asked me for a haircut! (He knew that I used to cut my manager's hair.) Obviously I said

'yes, if we have some scissors'. So with some blunt office scissors and a dirty tea towel I cut his hair! He was so thrilled he turned up at my next gig to watch me. He gave me some great advice because I struggle so much with the fame side of my career. To quote he said: 'Of course the public will know you better than you think, because they have read all about you and that isn't their fault. What you need to do is re-set the balance, so when an excited fan comes to you and tells you how much they love you, ask them their name and a little bit about them to equalise it. I am gregarious, but with an equal balance, so it is not all about me.' I really took his advice and it helped me a lot.

## What's the funniest thing that has happened to you on tour or on stage that you still laugh at?

Oh yes... (laughs). It was the very first time I got my standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival. I was warned that the audience can get quite negative if they don't like the film, so I was preparing for the worst, but when the credits started rolling, everyone got up on their feet and started clapping. Unknown to me, when this happens there is a guy with a huge spotlight that is told if it is positive feedback to shine the spotlight on us so we can bow. However, that day I was wearing tight leather trousers, and because I didn't want VPL (visible panty line) I wasn't wearing any knickers. As I do normally in cinemas to get comfy I had undone the buttons on my trousers. Well, when the spotlight hit us my manager grabbed my hand to stand me up, but he grabbed me so quickly that my trousers got caught and came down to my ankles, so I was stood there to a standing ovation with my trousers round my ankles wearing no knickers!

## And to end?

My mantra in life, to quote Shakespeare and my mum, is 'to thine own self be true'. I believe in this so much, when things get bad or I can't control what is happening I just think of this quote! If any moment is bad, instead of moaning about it, own it!

More of this interview can be found on our website [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk)

or telephone 01582 891406



DUNSTABLE  
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## DTC's Senior Community and Young People's Officer

Jacqui Groom-Tully is the Town Council's newest recruit, having recently started as the Senior Community and Young People's Officer. Based in Grove Corner, the Town Council's hub for young people located on High Street North, Jacqui will be responsible for working with the young people of Dunstable to develop the services and activities delivered for young people by the Town Council.



**“The young people that I have worked with have been amazing.”**

### Tell us a bit about your background?

I started with mums and tots, moving on to play groups, and then to play schemes. I have also had youth work roles with Bedfordshire County Council and Dunstable Town Council.

### What made you want to get into youth work?

I saw some youth workers working with young people and wanted to try it as they were impressive.

### What is the funniest story you have from working with young people?

There are so many incidents that are funny at the time or on reflection, to choose one is hard. One extreme example is a game of trust designed to understand visually impaired individuals, which involves turning the chairs back to back into a row and getting one row to describe a picture they are holding and for the second row to draw what they are told. The pictures produced rarely look like they should and some pictures that are produced are just funny. Or the police officer who was supporting a project who broke his finger bowling.

### What was your most memorable moment of working with young people?

Again, this question is hard to answer. The young people that I have worked with have been amazing. Decorating the changing rooms at Downside Community Centre and all the young people turned up every day; or the young people taking part in a presentation, when before they could not even answer a question in the class room. Just two examples, there are many more...

### What are you most looking forward to in your new role as Senior Community and Young People's Officer?

Getting to know the young people who use Grove Corner, and how to encourage other young people to access the service as well as getting to know my new colleagues and learning from them.

### In no more than 50 words, tell us why young people should use Grove Corner.

I think young people should use Grove Corner for the following reasons:  
To meet up with their friends to enjoy themselves and have fun!  
To just have somewhere safe to go.  
To speak to organisations that have the information they need.  
To seek support with their issues.  
To get their voice heard about issues that are affecting them.  
To participate in structured programmes (which helps personal development).  
To have someone to share a problem/issue with.

### Tell us something about you and what you do in your spare time.

Look after my grandchildren, play taxi driver and personal shopper.

To find out more about what's going on at Grove Corner, like the Facebook page, visit our website [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk) or contact Jackie on 01582 513000.



# Older People's Services



DUNSTABLE  
TOWN COUNCIL



## Over 55s Lunch Club

If you are over 55, why not join our weekly lunch club at Creasey Park Community Football Centre off Brewers Hill Road? You can be assured of a warm welcome, good food and great company. The Lunch Club is on every Thursday from 12 noon to 2.00 pm. For the cost of £5 per session members enjoy a cooked two-course meal followed by a friendly game of dominoes or cards, occasional guest speakers and activities or just a chat if preferred. For further information and membership forms contact Sandy Coyle on 01582 513000 or email [sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk)



## Good Neighbour Scheme

Dunstable's Good Neighbour scheme has been operating for over a year now and our willing band of volunteers has helped many Dunstable residents in need. They have taken people to the shops, hospital and doctors appointments, carried out odd jobs and offered friendship to those who cannot get out and about much. Are you elderly or disabled and do you think you could benefit from some friendly support? Or do you have a little time to spare and would like to help a local person in some way? Please contact Sandy Coyle on 01582 513000 or email [sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:sandy.coyle@dunstable.gov.uk)

# HRDC

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## HOUGHTON REGIS DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM

*Supporting the local community*

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN



Lands Improvement

[www.HRN1.co.uk](http://www.HRN1.co.uk)



## Preservation of Tudor Wall Paintings Wins Heritage Lottery Fund Support

The Friends of Priory House and Gardens, Dunstable have received £43,600 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting project: the conservation and preservation of significant Tudor wall paintings.

Six panels were discovered in 1954 in the first-floor storeroom of a shop in High Street North, Dunstable, and depict various woodland hunting scenes in colour, featuring a rabbit, stag and hunting dog, but the most remarkable panel includes a portrait of a man in Tudor costume smoking a clay pipe. Another seven panels, showing fruit and foliage, were then uncovered in the 1980s when the shop underwent extensive alterations.

Further conservation work is now needed which will then preserve these precious artefacts as part of Dunstable's heritage. An Elizabethan painters and stainers workshop, a presentation on clay pipe smoking, talks by volunteers about the paintings and a Tudor exhibition are just a few of the events the Friends have planned to which the local community, visitors and tourists will be invited.

Commenting on the award, Sue Turner, Secretary of the Friends, said: "We are very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for supporting this project as it means everyone will now have the opportunity to see these beautiful paintings for many years to come."

Robyn Llewellyn, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund East of England, said: "HLF are delighted to fund this project which will mean that more people are aware of the paintings and what they mean to the Town. The project will also ensure that they are in an environment that will keep them safe for the future, meaning that future generations will also be able to enjoy them."

### About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage.

For further information please contact Sue Turner, Secretary, Friends of Priory House and Gardens, Dunstable on 01582 608318 or e-mail [sue@turners.co.uk](mailto:sue@turners.co.uk)

FRIENDS OF  
PRIORY HOUSE  
AND GARDENS  
DUNSTABLE



## Town Mayor of Dunstable Councillor John Chatterley Planned Charity Events

in aid of

**Macmillan Cancer Support**  
**Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation**  
**Bedfordshire Youth Association**

The dates of forthcoming Mayor's charity events are as follows:

### Saturday 22 June

#### Mayor's Charity Coffee Morning

10.00 am to 12 noon

Council Chamber, Grove House

### Monday 15 July

#### Calendar Girls Show

7.00 pm

Dunstable Rep Theatre. High Street South, Dunstable

### October (Date TBC)

#### Charity Chinese Evening

7.00 pm

Dragon City, West Street, Dunstable

### Thursday 10 October

#### Charity Golf Day

All Day

Dunstable Downs Golf Club

### Friday 15 November

#### Charity Race Night

7.00 pm

St Mary's Social Club, West Street, Dunstable

### Saturday 25 January 2014

#### Burns Night

7.00 pm

Dunstable Downs Golf Club

For further information please contact Michele Markus on 01582 891404 or email [michele.markus@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:michele.markus@dunstable.gov.uk)



# Dunstable's Medieval Heritage



DUNSTABLE  
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Kicking off with what was a fantastic weekend of events on 18th and 19th May, Dunstable Town Council, working in partnership with Promoting Dunstable, is celebrating everything Medieval throughout 2013 to mark the 800th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Priory. Opposite is a listing of the fantastic events that will be taking place across the town.

## Follow us on twitter & facebook.

Dunstable Town Council has a Facebook page and Twitter accounts. Follow us to keep up to date with what's happening in your town.

twitter

Town Centre News

@DunstableTC

@DunstableTown

Council Events

@DunstableEvents

Priory House

@PrioryHouse

Creasey Park

@CreaseyPark

facebook

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/Dunstablecouncil)

Dunstablecouncil



DUNSTABLE  
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## Summer Saturdays

Free Guided Walk of Medieval Dunstable and its hidden Priory with an official Town Guide. Every Saturday at 11.00 am; meet at Priory House, under the canopy. Starting Saturday 18 May until Saturday 19 October

## Summer Sundays

Free Guided Walk of Dunstable's hidden Priory with an official Town Guide. 11.00 am on the first Sunday of the month; meet at Priory House. Begins Sunday 2 June, the last walk is on Sunday 6 October

## Musical History Tour: Fayrfax Consort

Saturday 29 June 7.30 pm

A rare opportunity to hear some of the works of one of Dunstable's famous sons, John of Dunstable, born c1390, one of the most famous and influential composers across Europe. Tickets available from Priory House Heritage Centre and Priory Church

## Celebrate the Centenary of the Organ at Priory Church

Saturday 13 July at 7.30 pm

Organ Concert performed by organist Gary Seiling  
More information available from Priory House Heritage Centre and Priory Church

## Tea Time Tales

**John Dunstaple, medieval musician**

Thursday 18 July 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm

Tickets available from Priory House Heritage Centre

## Festival of British Archaeology

Saturday 20 July

**Dunstable and its surroundings: a celebration of local archaeology from Prehistory until Victorian times**

The Manshead Archaeology Society of Dunstable is holding an open day at 5 Winfield Street exhibiting local artefacts, images and documents. Experts will be on hand to identify your finds. The day is to include a white line tour of Dunstable's lost Medieval Priory.

## Tea Time Tales

**Other Lands & Lead Mines owned by the Priory**

Thursday 5 September 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm

Tickets available from Priory House Heritage Centre

## Tea Time Tales

**The Medieval Wool Merchants of Dunstable**

Thursday 19 September 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm

Tickets available from Priory House Heritage Centre

## Concert by the Two Priory Choirs

Saturday 28 September 7.30 pm

More information available from Priory House Heritage Centre and Priory Church

## 800th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Priory

Friday 18 October

Festival of Dedication Eucharist 7.30 pm, all welcome

## Tea at the Ritz Priory Style

Saturday 19 October 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Enjoy tea at the Priory Church. £12 per person

## Closing Service Town Celebration

Sunday 20 October from 4.30 pm

Preacher: The Bishop of St Albans, all welcome

## Blooming Marvellous Medieval Dunstable

Dunstable is entering the Anglia in Bloom competition again in 2013 and this year's In Bloom theme will reflect the 800th anniversary of the Priory Church as well as the national theme of Edible Britain. With two Gold medals and a Silver Gilt medal already under its belt, the Town Council will be working closely with Promoting Dunstable to secure another Gold medal again this year.

The 2013 campaign was officially launched by the Town Mayor of Dunstable, Councillor Mrs Patricia Staples, on Saturday 13 April 2013 at Priory Gardens. Volunteers including the Medieval Dunstable project team, In Bloomers, Friends of Priory House and Gardens and local schools came together to plant a Physic Garden funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Designed by a local volunteer landscape designer, this new garden feature includes a wide range of culinary and medicinal plants used since medieval times by the Augustinian Canons of Dunstable Priory. The garden is split into sections to display some of the plants used for coughs, colds and flu, headaches and restorative tonics, digestion and liver, and bladder and kidneys ailments. The garden also has a Flowery Mead, a Scented Herber and an area displaying plants used for dyeing cloth.

Priory Gardens is an award-winning Green Flag site managed by Dunstable Town Council and the gardens are free to enter and accessible at all times. Priory House Heritage Centre is situated adjacent to the gardens and visitors can make use of the award-winning tea rooms, browse in the gift shop and enjoy the displays in the exhibition galleries.



## Charter for the Bereaved

Dunstable Town Council is proud to announce that it has signed up to the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management's Charter for the Bereaved and has been awarded bronze status for its Cemetery and Burial Services at Dunstable Cemetery.

Through the Charter the Institute sets standards of service which the Council are encouraged to adhere to when delivering burial and bereavement services. The Council has satisfied the Institute that it complies with the basic charter rights connected with funerals and will be working towards achieving silver and gold standards of service within the next few years.

Members of the public can be assured that those organisations that have adopted the Charter are committed to providing excellent services designed to meet their needs.

## You Can Help Dunstable Bloom

There is still time for you to enter our gardening competitions this year and the closing date for entries is 5.00 pm on Monday 15 July 2013. Promoting Dunstable in partnership with the Town Council is running a number of horticultural competitions including:

- Best Front Garden
- Best Container Display in a Front Garden
- Best Hanging Basket in a Front Garden
- Tallest Sunflower Competition
- Best Licensed Premises Floral Display
- Best Allotment
- Best School Garden

Judging will take place during late July and the winners will be announced and presented with trophies at an evening award ceremony on Wednesday 18 September 2013 at Weatherfield Academy. For more information on each of the competitions please visit [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk) and follow the link from the home page.

Winners will receive shields and certificates and the local Wilkinson store has kindly donated some vouchers as prizes.

You can enter more than one competition and if you would like to take part please return the feedback slip at the back of Talk of The Town. Please fill in your name, address, telephone number and email address and mark the slip with the name of the competitions that you wish to enter. Alternatively, you can enter by emailing your information to [john.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:john.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk).

## Council and Committee Meetings

Copies of the agendas for all meetings are available for inspection 3 days beforehand at Grove House, Priory House (Tourist Information Centre) and Dunstable Library or via the Council's website [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk)

All meetings commence at 7.00 pm and are held at Grove House, 76 High Street North, Dunstable unless otherwise stated, and all are open to the public.

Members of the public are welcome to ask questions about matters being considered at the meetings. Advance notice is required by the previous working day and further information is available from the Council's Head of Finance and Support Services [rosemary.osullivan@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:rosemary.osullivan@dunstable.gov.uk).

Forthcoming meeting dates are listed here:

02/07/2013	Plans Sub-Ctee	
11/07/2013	Dunstable Joint Committee	<i>Watling House</i>
23/07/2013	Plans Sub-Committee	
25/07/2013	Accts Sub-Committee	<i>5.30 pm</i>
13/08/2013	Plans Sub-Committee	
22/08/2013	Accts Sub-Committee	<i>5.30 pm</i>
03/09/2013	Plans Sub-Committee	
09/09/2013	Community Services Committee	
16/09/2013	Grounds & Environmental Services Committee	
23/09/2013	Finance & General Purposes Committee	
24/09/2013	Plans Sub-Committee	
26/09/2013	Dunstable Joint Committee	<i>Watling House</i>
26/09/2013	Accts Sub-Committee	<i>5.30 pm</i>
07/10/2013	COUNCIL	
15/10/2013	Plans Sub-Committee	
24/10/2013	Accts Sub-Committee	<i>5.30 pm</i>
04/11/2013	Community Services Committee	
05/11/2013	Plans Sub-Ctee	
11/11/2013	Grounds & Environmental Services Committee	
18/11/2013	Finance & General Purposes Committee	
21/11/2013	Accts Sub-Committee	<i>5.30 pm</i>
26/11/2013	Plans Sub-Committee	
02/12/2013	COUNCIL	
05/12/2013	Dunstable Joint Committee	<i>Watling House</i>
17/12/2013	Plans Sub-Committee	
19/12/2013	Accts Sub-Committee	<i>5.30 pm</i>



**Tease your taste buds** with this brand new range of the highest quality loose leaf teas.

All our teas and infusions have been selected and blended by our Tea Consultant Malcolm Ferris-Lay, only using importers who believe in the value of ethically sourced goods.

The teas and infusions have been named to reflect the history and heritage of Dunstable; so why not pop into Priory House Tea Rooms and try the Priory House Blend.

Currently only served at  
**Priory House Tea Rooms**  
33 High Street South, Dunstable, LU6 3RZ

Dunstable Tea is also available to buy in the Priory House Gift Shop along with caddies and other items for lovers of fine tea.



Coming soon training, tea bags  
and a new website  
[www.dunstabletea.co.uk](http://www.dunstabletea.co.uk)



Dunstable Rep presents...



The Little Theatre,  
High Street South,  
Dunstable  
LU6 3SF

## calendar girls

**Based on an  
inspiring true  
story  
by Tim Firth  
directed by  
Angela Goss**

Tickets **£13**  
Members **£9**  
Members' guests  
**£11**  
Under 18s **£6**



**Friday 12th to Saturday 20th July 2013\***  
**7.45pm**

Box office 07940 105864 or [dunstablerepboxoffice@gmail.com](mailto:dunstablerepboxoffice@gmail.com)

Based on the Miramax motion picture by  
Juliette Towhidi and Tim Firth

\*Please note that there will be no performance on Sunday 14th July



# Services Dunstable Town

# Council Provides For You

## Grounds and Environmental Services

### Cemetery Management

Maintenance of grounds, grave preparation, burial and memorial arrangements  
*Dunstable Cemetery, West Street, Dunstable LU6 1PD*  
01582 891426 | [cemetery@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:cemetery@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Parks and Open Spaces

Maintenance of grounds and pitches, litter picking, dog bins, grass cutting  
Freephone 0800 013 0350 | [info@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:info@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Allotments

Plot lettings and maintenance of sites  
01582 891426 | [allotments@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:allotments@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Play Areas

Maintenance, inspections and cleansing  
Freephone 0800 013 0350 | [info@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:info@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Town Centre Maintenance

Maintenance of raised beds, grassed areas and floral displays  
01582 513000 | [info@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:info@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Maintenance of Priory and Grove House Gardens

Grounds maintenance, litter picking, dog bins  
01582 891413 | [john.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:john.crawley@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Town Ranger

Cleaning up the public places in Dunstable  
Freephone 0800 013 0350

## Mayoral and Democratic Services

Remembrance Day Parade and Service, Mayor's Charity Events, Civic Services, Democratic Representation  
01582 891404 | [michele.markus@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:michele.markus@dunstable.gov.uk)

## Main Council Reception 01582 513000

## Community Services

### Town Centre Manager

Economic regeneration, Christmas lights, Ashton Square public toilets and Dunstable Market (Market operates Wednesday, Friday and Saturday)  
01582 891405 | [clare.brett@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:clare.brett@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Events Programme including:

Dunstable Live, Fireworks, Party in the Park, Dunstable Rocks!  
01582 891406 | [lisa.vincent@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.vincent@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Priory House

Heritage Centre, Tourist Information Centre, functions, tea rooms and gift shop  
*Priory House Heritage Centre, 33 High St South, Dunstable LU6 3RZ*  
01582 891420 | [prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:prioryhouse@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Grove Corner Young People's Centre

*76a High Street North, Dunstable LU6 1NF*  
01582 891436 | [info@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:info@dunstable.gov.uk)

### The Mayfield Centre

Community drop-in, learning opportunities, advice, information and guidance, homework drop-in  
*Mayfield Centre, Mayfield Road, Dunstable LU5 4AP*  
01582 670695 | [cathy.carty@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.carty@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Voluntary Sector Support (grants)

01582 513000 | [info@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:info@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Older People's Support Service

Good Companions day care, DAN, CPCFC Lunch Club  
01582 513000 | [info@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:info@dunstable.gov.uk)

### Creasey Park Community Football Centre

Full size artificial and grass pitches, function room hire, licensed bar, BMX track  
*Creasey Park Drive, Dunstable LU6 1BB*  
01582 891433 or 07712 861618 | [cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk](mailto:cpcfc@dunstable.gov.uk)

For any queries relating to Council Tax, Housing Benefits, Refuse or Highways please contact Central Bedfordshire Council on 0300 300 8000 or email [customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) or visit [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

For more information about services provided by Dunstable Town Council visit [www.dunstable.gov.uk](http://www.dunstable.gov.uk)

# TALK TOWN

of the 

## Feedback Form

We would appreciate your comments on the services we provide.

Please enter your comments in the area to the right and return your slip to Grove House or fax to 01582 890606.

Return your comment slip to:  
Dunstable Town Council, Grove House,  
76 High St North, Dunstable,  
Bedfordshire LU6 1NF

Your comments:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Please enter your details so that we may respond to your comments:

Name: .....  
Address: .....  
Telephone: .....  
Email: .....

Thank you for submitting your comments, the information will be used by Dunstable Town Council for developing services and marketing purposes and will not be sold to any other organisation. Your details are strictly confidential. The data protection act 1998 guarantees that the information you have provided will only be used for the correct purposes. If you do not want to receive any additional information from Dunstable Town Council please tick this box.



ToT160June2013

Look out for the next issue of Talk of the Town arriving at your door in September